

Remarks

Claim 1 now present in this application, with original claims 2-7 being cancelled. It should be noted that the amendments to original claim 1 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claim 1 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

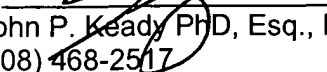
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John P. Keady at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502456 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

CANON U.S.A. INC., IP DIVISION

By: _____

 14 FEB 2006
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JPK